

## Washington State Credentialing Requirements

### Marriage and Family Therapist (Chapter 18.225 RCW, 246-809 WAC)

**Type of Credential:**

License

**DOH Contact:**

Customer Service Center - 360-236-4700

Credentialing Requirements	Verification Documents Obtained
<p><b>Educational Requirements:</b></p> <p>A master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy, or behavioral science master's or doctoral degree with equivalent course work from an approved school. Applicants must meet the program equivalency requirements. <a href="#">WAC 246-809-121</a> lists the program equivalency requirements.</p> <p>Applicants who have obtained the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) clinical membership status are considered to have met the educational requirements for licensure.</p>	<p>Official transcript with degree and date posted, received directly from applicant's program.</p> <p>If the course title does not clearly relate to courses listed in rule, you will be asked to show a course syllabus.</p> <p>Transcripts not in English must have an official translation.</p> <p>If applying through the AAMFT clinical status, verification must be from the AAMFT directly to the department.</p>
<p>Completion of 36 hours of continuing education, of the 36 hours at least six must be in professional ethics.</p>	<p>Applicants must attest that they have met this requirement on the application.</p>
<p><b>Educational Requirements:</b></p> <p>A total of 45 semester hours or 60 quarter credits are required in all nine areas of study. At least 27 semester credits or 36 quarter credits are required in the first five areas of study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marital and family systems</li><li>• Marital and family therapy</li><li>• Individual development</li><li>• Psychopathology</li><li>• Human sexuality</li><li>• Research</li><li>• Professional ethics and law</li><li>• Electives (one course)</li><li>• Supervised clinical practice</li></ul>	<p>The coursework form to be completed by the applicant and verified by the official graduate school transcripts, which specify number of quarter or semester hours.</p>

<p>A minimum of two calendar years of full-time marriage and family therapy, and at least 3000 hours of experience, 1000 hours of which must be direct client contact. At least 500 hours must be gained in diagnosing and treating couples and families; and</p> <p>At least 200 hours of qualified supervision with a supervisor. At least 100 of the 200 hours must be one-on-one supervision, and the remaining hours may be in one-on-one or group supervision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of the total supervision, 100 hours must be with a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) with at least five years clinical experience.</li> <li>• The other 100 hours may be with a equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner.</li> </ul> <p>Those who have completed a master's program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (COAMFTE) will be credited with 500 hours of direct client contact and 100 hours of formal meetings with an approved supervisor.</p>	<p>Verification of post-graduate supervised experience must be verified by an approved supervisor, on forms provided by the department.</p>
<p>State licensure verification</p>	<p>Applicant lists all states where credentials are or were held, including where applicant has applied but a credential was not granted. A verification form must be completed and submitted by the jurisdiction where the applicant is or was credentialed. Applicant sends form to jurisdiction for completion. The jurisdiction sends completed form directly to the department.</p>
<p>Exam:</p> <p>The association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) Exam is required. The Department of Health will approve applicants to sit for the exam, after approving the applicants education and experience.</p> <p>Applicants are not approved to take the examination, until they have completed the educational and supervisory components needed for licensure. Once these components have been met, the department will approve the applicant for the exam.</p>	<p>Verification sent directly from the testing company.</p>

<p>Statement about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• physical and mental health status</li> <li>• lack of impairment due to chemical dependency/substance abuse</li> <li>• history of loss of license, certification or registration</li> <li>• felony convictions</li> <li>• loss or limitations of privileges</li> <li>• disciplinary actions</li> <li>• professional liability claims history</li> </ul>	<p>Applicant must answer personal data questions. An appropriate explanation and required documentation must be sent with positive answers. If there is a positive answer to the professional liability claims history question, the applicant must send an explanation of the nature of the case, data and summary of care given, copies of the original complaint, and the settlement or final disposition. If pending, applicant must indicate status.</p>
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### **Additional Information/Documents Required**

- HIV/AIDS training - four hours
- If already taken the AMFTRB examination, need verification directly from Professional Examination Services.

### **Process for Approving/Denying Applications**

Credentialing staff review the application and supporting documents to make an initial determination on eligibility. The recommendation is based upon the requirements outlined in [RCW 18.225](#) & [WAC 246-809](#). Credentialing supervisors approve applications that do not have positive answers to personal data questions, have questionable verifying documents, or are otherwise “red flag” applications. Red flag applications are forwarded to the exception application process for determination by the appropriate disciplining authority. An applicant will be formally notified of a denial and has the opportunity for a hearing.

### **Renewal Requirements**

Marriage and family therapists must renew their license every year on or before their birthday. Thirty-six hours of continuing education (six hours must be in law and ethics) is due every two years. Marriage and family therapists are required to submit the appropriate fee, renewal card and affidavit of compliance with the continuing education requirement.